The restrictions placed by EU on China coupled with recent initiatives taken by the Government to boost exports may help increase India's textile exports.

US has also initiated proceedings under 'China Textile Safeguards' provisions on certain product categories originating from China. However, bilateral discussions between US and China have not been held so far.

It is too early to make any realistic assessment about the increase in India's textile exports due to EU/US safeguards action against China.

Revival of NJMC units

1881. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to revive two of the six NJMC units;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the revival of these units are being examined by BRPSE;

(d) if so, the reasons for not referring all the six NJMC units to BRPSE for a detailed examination of the revival prospects;

(e) whether the operating units which were stopped because of disconnection of electricity supply is being restarted after payment of the unpaid power charges; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) to (c) Yes Sir, Government had decided to pose the issue of revival of two units of NJMC Ltd. *viz.,* Khardah & Kinnison to the Board for Reconstruction of Public Sector Enterprises (BRPSE). Accordingly, the proposal has been referred to the BRPSE.

(d) As per the report of the High Powered Committee for revival of NJMC, the other four units of NJMC Ltd. would not attain any reasonable performance norm as prevailing in the jute industry even after substantial capital investment. Based on the production figures as well as other parameters, only Khardah and Kinnison were thought fit to be brought back to production with minimum infusion of fresh capital for essential

repairs. The amount of investment required to bring back the other four units of NJMC to production, were considered to be much too large compared to the possible benefits from re-starting these four units. Hence, it was decided not to refer these units to BRPSE.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) The restoration of electrictiy in all units of NJMC will entail likely expenditure of Rs. 8.5 crores. As NJMC is not generating any revenue of its own, it is not economically viable to restore electricity unless there is a viable production plan in place.

Demand of Indian clothes in foreign countries

†1882. SHRI P.K. MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is huge demand of our clothes in foreign countries which are woven with Indian looms;

(b) the extent of foreign trade of clothes made with looms; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to assist this sector?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI SHANKERSINH VAGHELA): (a) and (b) The principal product range woven on Indian handlooms having demand in foreign countries comprises fabrics, made-ups, clothing accessories and floor coverings. The scale of foreign trade of clothes made on handlooms is limited.

(c) The following steps are being taken to promote export of handlooms;

(i) Handloom Export Scheme under which financial assistance is provided for development of exportable range of products and international publicity and marketing thereof;

(ii) Organisation of fairs, exhibitions, Buyer Seller Meets by Handloom Export Promotion Council in overseas markets from time to time to provide the Indian handloom manufacturers and avenue for export market.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.